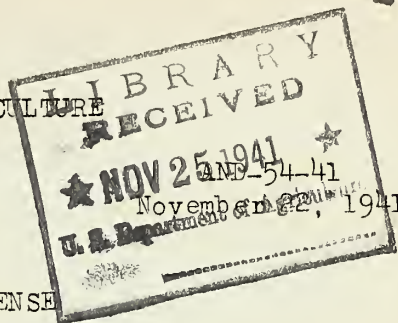


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.914
A2Ags

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information



FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

OPM CHECKING CATERPILLAR TRACTOR DISTRIBUTION. Practically all of the production of "cats" is going for military and export use, building Army camps, levelling off ground for airromes, and only a very minor supply is available for agriculture. OPM has received a number of priority applications from farmers for "cats" and has turned them over to OADR, which is asking the field for intended uses of the "cats." Defense Boards are told to warn farmers of the shortages of "cats" and recommend repair of old machines and the use of other types of tractors.

OADR SHAPING UP FARM LABOR PROGRAM. OPM has agreed to name representatives of the Department of Agriculture on the twelve regional Labor Supply Committees, which are actually going to do most of the spade work on the whole emergency labor supply situation. OPM, Employment Service, WPA, and Selective Service are already represented. Agriculture's representative will serve as a direct channel with State agricultural labor committees and OADR in Washington. OADR had the regional men in for a two-day clinic, emphasizing that most problems would have to be solved in the field, that the big job was proper distribution and more efficient use of existing labor supply. OADR is holding a series of conferences with Selective Service which may lead to clarification of agricultural deferments.

DAIRY MACHINERY QUOTA TO BE HIGHER THAN AVERAGE FOR ALL FARM MACHINERY.

Director Townsend of OADR told Wisconsin Farm Bureau that in view of high dairy goals, OADR had asked OPM to provide for greater supplies of dairy machinery than for some other kinds of implements. General level for farm machinery contemplated in allocation program is 80 percent of 1940, and Townsend hinted his recommendation for dairy machinery was considerably above that level.

SCRAP COLLECTION PROGRAM. OPM is worried by shortages of scrap, which adds more significance to the Scrap Collection Campaign.

REA HANDICAPPED BY COPPER SHORTAGES. Many rural electrification projects are being held up by inability to secure priority ratings for copper wire. The shortage of copper is the most serious in the defense program, and no immediate solution is in sight. OPM has indicated it may be possible to give consideration to most urgent REA cases where defense implication is clearly involved. Krug, head of OPM Power Division, comes from TVA and understands rural electrification problems.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information

AND-54-41
November 22, 1941

PART II- CONFIDENTIAL

AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS: UNITED KINGDOM: The Ministry of Food announced that beginning December 8 fruit juice (black current, syrup and puree, and later orange juice) and cod liver oil compound will be issued free of charge to all children born after January 1, 1940. The scheme is experimental and will be reviewed at the end of March 1942, after which a charge may be made to parents. Fruit juices will take the place of fresh orange juice of which supplies cannot be guaranteed.

The Agricultural Wages Board increased the national minimum wage for regular adult male farm workers from 48 shillings (\$9.68) per week to 60 shillings (\$12.11), effective December 28. A substantial majority of the county agricultural wages committees voted for the increase but many of them qualified their recommendations by references to increases in the Government's fixed prices for farm products. The Minister of Agriculture has given assurances to a deputation from the National Farmers' Union that prices for farm products would be adjusted to meet any substantial changes in cost of production.

The Minister of Agriculture stated that steps have been considered to prevent speculation in farm land. He pointed out that no new regulations were necessary with respect to farm land purchased for investment since the Government had already announced that any land purchased for that purpose might subsequently become subject to public acquisition or control and that compensation in the event of such procedure would not exceed the value of the land on March 31, 1939. He also pointed out that in order to prevent speculation, regulations would be issued providing that for any farm sold since the outbreak of the war, notices to tenants to vacate would be null and void without the written consent of the Government.

FRANCE: A survey appearing in a recent issue of the LANDWARE (a farm periodical published in Berlin) states that the 1941 bread grain crop in France exceeds the average of the last few years by at least 20 percent. Although admitting that this average was not high owing to the poor 1940 crop, it maintains that the 1941 crop will not only meet domestic requirements but will also serve to build up new bread grain reserves. Published threshing returns indicate a total bread grain crop of between 6,500,000 and 7,000,000 tons.

The report points out that a good fodder grain crop has been harvested but that as usual it would not cover domestic needs and that France has always depended on fodder imports. Prior to the war such imports totaled 2,500,000 tons annually. Imports are still necessary despite the fact that the fodder grain area was greatly expanded during the past season. According to the survey serious difficulties have arisen with respect to the delivery of fodder grains because of the tendency on the part of farmers to retain as much fodder grain as possible in order to build up reserve needed to increase herds depleted by

the war. It is pointed out that the Government is opposed to such hoarding and that it will force farmers to deliver the quantities of fodder grains fixed by the competent authorities.

JAPAN: Since the freezing regulations went into effect at the end of July, all cotton imports from the United States have ceased, and those from India have been negligible. In August it was reported that an agreement had been reached between the Indian and Japanese Governments for the shipment to Japan of approximately 80,000 bales of India cotton contracted for prior to the imposition of the freezing order. However, up to November 1 not more than 25,000 bales of Indian cotton arrived in Japan since the freezing order. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 bales of Brazilian cotton and 30,000 bales of Peruvian have arrived in Japan since the end of July. This indicates a total importation from those countries of only 75,000 to 80,000 bales during the last three months compared with the previous monthly average of well over 100,000 bales.

No further cotton is expected from India for an indefinite period. However, cotton is continuing to arrive from South America but due to the shipping shortage the amount is strictly limited.

Revised estimates place the September 1, 1941, raw cotton stocks at 500,000 bales. This would be sufficient for not more than 6 months' supply if only the most urgent domestic needs were met, leaving none whatsoever for export. However, large stocks of cotton piecegoods, believed to exceed 1,000,000,000 square yards, could be diverted to domestic use. At this time, therefore, the Japanese cotton supply situation is not critical. However, the future of the cotton industry is obscure and is causing considerable anxiety to the Government.